

CONCORDIA

STINGERS

Dec. 12, 2002

Top teams to tip off at Concordia-Nike tournament

After a five-year absence, head coach Keith Pruden has resurrected Concordia's annual eight-team women's basketball tournament, which will be held Dec. 29-31 at the Concordia gym on the Loyola campus, 7200 Sherbrooke St. W.

"I remember when Concordia used to have the best tournament in Canada," says Pruden. "At least four of the teams from the tournament would go on to compete at nationals, there'd be a good mix of teams from across the country and it was great basketball."

So Pruden set out to organize an event that would bring pride to the university and offer his basketball players a great experience. Concordia's reputation and the chance to spend New Year's Eve in Montreal was attractive to many teams. It took Pruden 15 minutes to fill the seven open spots at the Concordia-Nike women's basketball tournament.

Joining the Stingers at the competition are: the No. 4-ranked Memorial Sea-Hawks, No. 9 Manitoba Bisons, the Bishop's Gaiters, who were ranked in the CIS top 10 earlier in the season; the St. Francis Xavier X-Women, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks, the Queen's Golden Gaels and the McGill Martlets.

Pruden likes the quality of competition and says basketball fans will get the chance to see one of the best players in Canadian women's basketball – Memorial's Jenine Browne.

"She's amazing," says Pruden of the six-foot guard. "She has a legitimate chance to be named the outstanding player in the CIS this year."

Concordia also has its share of gifted athletes. Pruden speaks highly of second-year guards Pascale Morin of Laval, Que., and Maria-Jose (MJ) Raposo, a native of Montreal.

"Pascale and MJ are the leading scorers on our team," says Pruden. "They're both exciting to watch. Both are very tough players. They're good offensively and defensively solid. They're young and have lots of potential."

For experience, Pruden looks to fifth-year forward Jen Neill and fourth-year forward Rosie Douglas.

"Jen is having the best season of her life," says the coach of his captain. "She's playing exceptionally well, and I'm extremely pleased with her leadership. I think she deserves to be considered for defensive player of the year in our conference."

"And Rosie, she's so explosive at both ends. She's the kind of player that can take a game over."

Games for Day 1 of the tournament are as follows:

Memorial vs. Wilfrid Laurier - 2 p.m.

Manitoba vs. Bishop's - 4 p.m.

McGill vs. St. Francis Xavier - 6 p.m.

Queen's vs. Concordia - 8 p.m.

On Day 2, the winners from Day 1 play at 6 and 8 p.m. The losers move to the consolation side of the 'raw and play at 2 and 4 p.m.

On the final day, the championship is scheduled for 4 p.m. The third-place game will take place at 2 p.m. The consolation final is slated for noon and the seventh-place game will begin at 10 a.m.

Info: 514 848-3862 or www.concordia.ca/stingers.